

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated December 17, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated April 9, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 8, 15, and 18 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-4, 10-14, and 20 are cancelled by this Amendment. Claims 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, and 21-24 remain pending.

Applicants are pleased to note claims 6, 7, 9, 16, 17, 19, and 21-24 were indicated to be allowed.

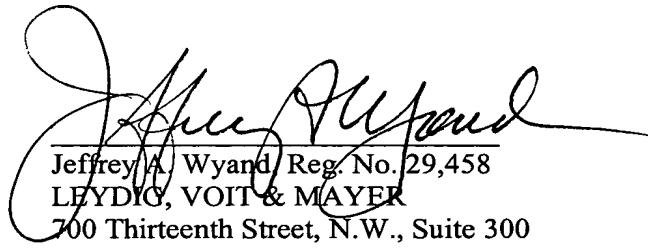
Claims 1-4 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,950,836 to Iwamoto et al. Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamoto in view of U.S. Patent 4,478,331 to Ruin.

Each of the rejections is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite matters and to allow the application to pass to issuance quickly, claims 1-4, 10-14, and 20 have been cancelled.

In view of the amendments herein, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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